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Pre-synopsis on

GENDER REPRESENTATION IN SELECT INDIAN ENGLISH WOMEN NOVELIESTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ANITA DESAI, NAYANTARA SAHAGAL AND SHASHI DESHPANDE.

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Introduction:

The contemporary literature of Indian Literature in English has a considerable list of women writers, who contributed significantly to the world literature, winning international literacy awards. They voiced to their concerns and experiences by creating a body of literature of their own. They have defined and destroyed the structures of woman as kitchen binded and submissive housewife and mother, by doing this they have revolted against patriarchal ideology that defined stereotyped representation which can be seen as reflecting the power relation operating within the society. Furthermore they represented women characters as strong, independent in decision making, which was exactly opposite to the roles assigned to women by our great Indian Culture.

The history of Indian woman novelists begin with *Toru Dutta* in its earlier phase, whereas an article of *Tarabai Shinde*, titled "*Stree- Purush Tulana*" has brought a new radicalist view of cultural and social configuration. After the World War-II, there has been a phase of Indian woman novelist who wrote on different aspects like partition, oppressions, subjugation, rights, violence, domestic relation and many a more. Novelists like Bapsi Sidva, Nayanatara Sahgal, Anita Desia, Ruth Parvar Jhabwala, Amrita Pritam, Kamal Markandya, Shashi Deshpande, Shobha De and many more explored different social political economical concerns and conditioning of women, their rights, representation in history, culture, mythology has always been discussed, represented in some or other novels written by Indian women novelists.

Gender is nothing but the behavior assigned by sex. i.e. male or female. Is constructed depended upon power to preserve the male –hegemony in the society.

It is reflects power relations operating within the society. These power relations and hegemony harly allow woman to be free from familial, academic, social, political, economical bondings. Several Indian woman novelists like *Kamala Markandya, Anita Desai, Ruth Parwar Jhabwala, Bharati Mukhharji, Shoba De, Kiran Desai, Amrita Pritam and Shashi Deshpande* has represented these relations of gender in their novels.

Present study focuses upon select Indian women writers who portrayed gender representation in their novels. The novels selected for the purpose of the study are *Anita Desai, Nayantara Sahgal and Shashi Deshpande.*

Two novels of each of the novelists are selected for the proposed research work. To have comprehensive study of these women novelists the researcher has selected two novel of Anita Desai, *Cry The Peacock* (1963) and *Where Shall We Go This Summer* (1975), Nayantara Sahagal- *Mistaken Identity* and *The Day in Shadow,* Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence and Small Remedies.*

Significance of the Study:

The purpose of the research work is significant in many ways as it correlates secondary status of women with the contemporary gender roles assigned to them. It mainly relates the oppression of women in different configuration.

This proposed study also focuses upon the suffering of women in marginalized conditions. Besides, this study inquires the construction and application of gender roles and identity in India by detailing historicity of gender and analyzing the contemporary gender aspects through the exploration of above novels.

Scope and Limitations:

Gender and gender roles and identities are represented in several Indian women novelists. It is the very depiction of contemporary society. Present selected women novelist have also dealt with the concerns of gender representation. This research work will also focuses historical development of feminine identity, Indian religious, economical, cultural and social perspective.

Aims and Objectives of Research

1. To Study the representation of gender identity and its configuration.
2. To explore valiant transformed women characters as opposed to the contemporary social, cultural configuration.
3. To examine the discourse of gender and its historicity of construction by detailing patriarchal discursive aspect.

4. To analyze the challenges before woman characters on edge of transformation, self knowledge and vindication of her rights through deep study of the above novels.
5. To detail the degradation of human relationship and the context of gender identity.

Hypothesis:

1. Gender is a social construction it has economic, political and cultural aspects.
2. Women suffered from physical and psychic trauma.
3. Women transformed themselves to be free from gender stereo type.
4. Women have long been assigned a different gender identity from that of men. They tended to be free.
5. Gender discourse has always been site of cultural, political, ethical and universal questions.

Political and economical taboos inflicted upon women.

The study is restricted to the following women novelists:

A) Anita Desai
   i. Cry The Peacock (1963)
   ii. Where shall we go this summer (1975)

B) Nayantara Sahagal
   i. The Day in Shadow (1971)
   ii. Mistaken Identity (1988)

C) Shashi Deshpande
   i. That Long Silence (1988)
   ii. Small Remedies (2000)

The present study only concerns about the gender representation in the above selected women novelists.

Review of Literature:

As for the process and progress of the research work the researcher will analyse the study following reviews of literature:

1. Marital discord and feminine dissent in the novels of Nayantara Sahagal by G.Bhasker
2. Nayantara Sahgal perspectives on politics and women by Pandey Uma.
3. Anita Desai: A critical study by Saxena, Suresh Chandra
4. A Study of themes and techniques in the novels of Anita Desai, Gopan N.Raj
5. Evolution of the Female Self A Study of the Women Protagonists in the Selected novels of Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande and Anita Nair by Aparna Sundaram.
6. Tradition Revolt and Affirmation in the novels of Shashi Deshpande by Sinha Urvashi.
7. The Portrayal of Women in the select novels of Shashi Deshpande and Anita Desai A comparative study by S.Sajina.

Research Methodology:

The present research work aims to scrutinize the fictional writings of Kiran Desai, Nayantara Sahgal and Shashi Deshpande. It attempts to examine the depiction of gender and related perspectives of Indian Society and the contextualization of gender bias in historic and contemporary Indian Society.

The present research work undertakes the help of interpretative, descriptive and analytical methods. It attempts to arrive at a independent personal response through reading, understanding and investigating the select novels of Anita Desai, Nayantara Sahgal and Shashi Deshpande.

A) Data collection:

The researcher attempts to collect the primary and secondary data by visiting various libraries and browsing on the Internet. The novels, critical writings, pamphlets and interviews will form primary data whereas critical reviews, writings will be the base for secondary data.

B) Data Analysis:

The researcher will study and analyze the data (Descriptive analytical method)

C) Data Presentation:

Qualitative method and various other methods will be used as per the need of the research.

D) Work Plan:

The proposed work attempts an analyzation of the data from different angles that shapes and forms gender and related aspects. It also focuses upon fictional representation of reality, feminity, hegemony, dominance of patriarchy and controversial issues presented in select novels.

Tentative Chapter Scheme:

Chapter One: Introduction

A) Historical Survey of fictional writings in context with the novels which represent gender as identity that shapes masculine narrative which hardly accounts woman any sort of freedom.

B) Review of Literature:

- Earlier research works done on the context of the proposed research will be placed.

Chapter Two:

- Select novels of Anita Desai will be analyzed and also Gender representation in the novels of Anita Desai will be discussed.

Chapter Three:

- This chapter will throw light on Gender representation in the select novels of Nayantrara Sahgal

Chapter four:

- This chapter will include the discussion and analysis of Gender representation in select novels of Shashi Deshpande

Chapter Five: Conclusion

The conclusions based on the research done will be drawn here besides, the scope for futures research will be place here.

- References and Bibliography:

A select bibliography

A: Primary Sources:

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